July 16, 1988

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I was very happy to receive your letter... and even happier to hear you remembered me. The young woman you referred to in your letter [redacted] is named Rozanne not Suzanne, but hell you were only two letters off and how many years has that been. I haven't been in touch with her for about a year. She lives in Washington. For a while, she worked for Dale Bumpers, then became a para legal and the last I heard she was in law school. She told me about her visit to see you and as I remember she enjoyed the time she spent with you. After that NYU thing, where I heard your speech and saw the Groden film (the "enhanced" Zapruder film), I became obsessed with the JFK assassination. So, all my friends had to listen to me whether they wanted to or not. I'd refer to your work and that's how Rozanne found out about you. I was 9 years old when JFK was killed, but it had a profound effect on me. However, at 9 I never questioned the Warren Report. I figure if I had been older, I would have doubted the Commission earlier. After the NYU convention, I was just flabbergasted that this myth was forced on the people of this country. And I was also frightened by the idea that if they could get away with this, they

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could get away with anything, or at least try to. From time to time, I get caught up in it and go back to your books and various other in my book collection and I still can't believe it. It has nothing to do with the idea that JFK was the best president we had, but there was a feeling about this country and him as a leader that has been lost since his murder. I guess my recent reinterest came from [redacted] the anniversary of RFK's assassination. There were a lot of specials on tv here and then I came upon a few documentaries at video stores. I saw "The Second Gun", [redacted] an Italian documentary called "The Two Kennedys" and another one called "The Plot to Kill JFK" that was basically a visual version of Anthony Summers Conspiracy book. David Schein's book covered much of the same ground. Schein tries to link the Mafia to the JFK, RFK and MLK murders -- and even touches on the George Wallace assassination attempt. Then when I was at the library looking for some books on gypsies (for research on movie idea), I wandered over to the section on the JFK assassination. I ended up reading David Lifton's book, Best Evidence, which was a hard buy for me. I also read Crime of the Century

by Michael Kurtz, who tries a little (2)
too hard to set himself up as the expert
who can say what evidence is valid and what
isn't. Coup d'etat In America by Michael
Canfield and Alan J. Weberman was preposterous.
Those "tramps" don't look anything like
E. Howard Hunt or Frank Sturgis. I didn't
expect much as Weberman is a guy who
used to go through Bob Dylan's garbage
cans to analyze Dylan's music. I also
remember at the NYU convention, as a group
of people were crossing through Washington
Square Park, [redacted] talking to Mark
Lane, Weberman popped up and accused
Lane of being a CIA agent whose real
name was "Boris". It was kind of funny
because Lane had no idea how to respond to
this accusation, and Weberman wouldn't
let up on him. The best book I read
of all of them was Seth Kantor's Who
Was Jack Ruby? I tried to read The
Plot To Kill The President by G. Robert Blakey
and Richard Billings but it was just
a regurgitation of the Assassination
Committees Report. I also read A Reasonable Doubt
(I can't remember the author - Henry something).
What you said in regard to
the information or misinformation
on the 25th anniversary is true. I

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read that Walter Cronkite had approached CBS about doing a special. Their past specials did nothing ~~else~~ but back the Warren Report. In this special, Cronkite wanted to get a group of actors to read exerpts from the Warren Report. Even CBS nixed that. I don't know what Walter was thinking. Although, I suppose a nice dramatic reading of "The Abortive Transfer" by Charleton Heston might have made for some interesting television. Someone else is producing a 4 part series (for syndication to be hosted by Jack Anderson) on the Mafia murder of JFK. It will coincide with the anniversary. The only books I want to read now are Howard Roffman's (which I have on order) and your Oswald in New Orleans, which I can't find anywhere and believe me I've looked (any suggestions on where I could find it?). As long as I'm on the subject, I saw in USA Today that Gordon Shanklin died. I might also mention, a friend of mine was in Dallas about a year ago (we grew up together and I got him interested in the subject). He visited Oswald's old rooming house. The current owner was happy to give him a guided tour. Oswald's room was now used for storage. Since I have never been Dallas, he brought me back some grass from the Grassy Knoll and some of the most tasteless postcards which show

the assassination route. There are X's marking where the three shots hit and over to the side in a little circle is the smiling face of JFK.

As far as other things go, I've been lucky enough to do well here. My reference to picket signs was because the WGA (Writers Guild of America) has been on strike for only 6 months. I should have explained, but I assume because it's plastered all over the CA papers, that it's in the papers everywhere. I don't like being out of work, but maybe with nothing but reruns, people will be forced to read books. The show I write on, "Golden Girls", is a hit show. I know I've got some talent, but I've been lucky and got some breaks, too. Thank you for your congratulations. What I write is entertaining and I know it's not anything that is historic in nature, but it's what I can do best. Deep down I'd like to do something more important and who know maybe some day I will. If you ever want to watch it, it's on at 9 PM on NBC Saturday nights. And if you don't want to watch it, that's okay too.

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As far as Jerry goes, it was a sad thing. He was a special guy. He went to law school and instead of going for the money, he devoted his time to defending those who he believed in. Most of the people were Black or Hispanic and unable to get representation. He didn't always get paid, but he got satisfaction from the work and helping others. I think that is why your work touched him so much. He and I spent nights at NYU talking about your books and admiring your dedication to your work. He had a lot of respect for you because of that. Your work touched him in a different way. He read it for the information, but he enjoyed your work that much more because your personality was stamped on your work. And he admired what you were doing with little reward. About two years ago, he called me and told me of his bout with stomach cancer. The doctors thought they had "cured" him. But it reoccurred and he went fast. I talked to him in February and he was gone in April. What made it even more tragic was that he had a three year old daughter. I never met his wife, but I wrote her and told her how special he was and that we have to be thankful for the time we had with him and that is better than never having had him at. I know it doesn't change what happened, but there's not a lot you can say in that situation.

I am sorry to hear that your health is keeping you from doing any work. I suppose others will continue to file FOIA, but I have missed your voice on this matter. What are your plans for all the files you've collected? Are you just taking it easy these days?

When I wrote that the public doesn't care anymore, I think it was a combination of my frustration over nothing happening in terms of a real investigation of the assassination after 25 years and cynicism towards the government and some elements of the press. I agree that people care, it's more of the attitude "what can you do?".

I will reiterate what I said in my last letter. You have done something very important with your life. We have information we would have never had before. It should never cross your mind that you wasted your time. You sacrificed a lot, and [redacted] your [redacted] work is important enough that the press should have acknowledged. It is wrong that they didn't. But for some reason the JFK assassination is regarded by the press like sightings of UFO's. They've supported the party line from the start. You stood up and spoke out with little to gain and [redacted] everything to lose. But you gave us the truth. There are lots of others

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who feel like I do, but just don't write. I'm sorry I didn't write you sooner. I think what motivated me when I first wrote and then later to spend my time looking for clippings, is that I felt what you were doing was so important that I wanted to be a part of it and help -- even if it was only in some small way. I was gratified to hear that the clippings will be a part of your archives.

Well, I've droned on here for quite a while. And although I really don't know you and have only met you once, I feel like I've heard from an old friend. I regret I've never had the time to meet and talk to you at any length.

Thanks for taking the time to answer me. And if time permits, I'd like to hear from you again sometime. I'll say "hi" for you to Rozanne next time we talk. (Incidently you have quite a memory, I didn't even mention being from Cincinnati in my last letter). Please take care of yourself. I hope the therapy helps your leg (I remember you having leg problems years ago when I first wrote)

Best wishes

Robert